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Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 7 March 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French versions of a communiqué of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Somalia, issued on 4 March 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 72 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adamantios Th. VASSILAKIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/49/50.

Annex

[Original: English and French]

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON SOMALIA, ISSUED ON 4 MARCH 1994

The European Union has welcomed the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 897 (1994) and reaffirms its full support for the work of the United Nations in furtherance of its revised mandate to encourage the process of political reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction in Somalia which could be otherwise jeopardized.

The European Union continues to follow closely the situation in Somalia. Of particular concern is the increasing banditry and violence throughout the country which threatens the efforts of the organizations and personnel engaged in relief operations. The European Union supports the efforts by the Somalis to reorganize the Somali police as an important element in restoring order.

The European Union believes that the Somali people bear the ultimate responsibility for setting up viable national political institutions. In this regard, the European Union welcomes the ongoing consultations and contacts among Somali clans and factions aimed at reaching a political settlement acceptable to all the parties concerned. Progress on political reconciliation is essential if the risk of renewed armed confrontation and further human suffering is to be avoided.

In addition, the European Union commends and supports the regional organizations and countries in their efforts to expedite dialogue and negotiations among Somali leaders on the future of their country.

The European Union is ready to contribute actively to the rehabilitation and reconstruction process in accordance with the Addis Ababa Declaration where prospects for reconciliation and security conditions make possible effective international assistance to economic and social recovery.